The difference between technological levels prevailing in industries of developed and developing countries is substantial in some sectors. Since technological imports are often the quickest and most economical way of bridging this technology gap, industries are generally prompted to import technologies selectively. Even these imports of technologies involve substantial R&D efforts to identify, acquire, assimilate and improve the same for domestic and export requirements.

(d) Policies of the government are directed towards promoting R&D in industry through various support measures, fiscal incentives and R&D funding mechanisms. Immediately after independence, government established a chain of national laboratories to provide R&D support to industry. Measures have been taken to strengthen linkages between national laboratories/universities/IITs and industry for collaborative R&D work. Tax incentives have been provided to industrial R&D under the I.T. Act as also for commercialisation of achievements of indigenous R&D. Customs and excise duty exemptions have been provided to non-profit Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations engaged in R&D. A number of industrial R&D funding mechanisms such as Technology Development Board under Department of Science and Technology (DST). Programme Aimed at Technological Self Reliance(PATSER) scheme of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Home Grown Technologies scheme of Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), and other sector specific R&D funding schemes have been introduced by the government. All these efforts and measures are towards enhancing R&D by industry and strengthening our technological capabilities and progressively reducing our dependence on imported technologies.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Notification of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Sugar and Edible Oil).

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Sugar and Edible Oil) Notification S.O. 772(E) dated the 10th November, 1997 publishing the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Amendment Order, 1997, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-284/98]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Thirty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the National cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Federation.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-281/98]

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and related papers.

IV. Report and Accounts (1995-96) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi and related papers.

V. Memorandum of Understanding (1997-98) between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited.